

February 1, 2008

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senate  
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune  
U.S. Senate  
493 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden and Thune:

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association commends your leadership in pushing for increased surface transportation infrastructure investment as part of the Senate's economic stimulus plan. Adding a transportation investment component to the stimulus package would return big dividends to the nation and we strongly support the amendment you are offering with Senators Dodd, Shelby and Menendez.

Federal surface transportation investment has true short-term economic benefits, such as needed job creation, and generates permanent assets that make our economy more productive over the long term. The combination of meaningful immediate and future economic enhancements would help pull the economy out of its recent downturn and facilitate economic strength long after enactment of any economic stimulus legislation.

According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, states have over 3,000 transportation improvement projects valued at more than \$17 billion that can be put to contract within 90 days. Targeting funds for these types of activities would have an immediate impact on job creation and allowing individuals to earn a paycheck. This empirical information directly refutes claims that infrastructure projects do not provide the short-term benefits appropriate for a stimulus proposal.

There are few federal initiatives with the proven economic benefits and broad bipartisan support as transportation infrastructure investment. We urge all senators to support your proposal.

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane  
President & CEO